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'65 case tied to JFK death?

By ERIC HANSON
Houston Chronicle

Two private investigators working on a book about one of Houston's most sensational unsolved murder cases say they have evidence that the prime suspect worked for the CIA.

They also claim that the man, Charles Frederick Rogers, was in Dallas on the day of President Kennedy's assassination, and may have played a role in it.

Rogers disappeared June 23, 1965, after the bodies of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Rogers, were found dismembered in the refrigerator in their home.

Private investigator John Craig and his associate, Phil Rogers, said Charles Rogers was recruited by the CIA in 1956 and was an operative until the mid-1960s. They say Charles Rogers killed his parents when they became suspicious and they say he now lives in Guatemala.

Phil Rogers is not related to the suspect.

Book will claim suspect in CIA

A Houston homicide detective has been assigned to review their information, and a police artist has made a bust of what Charles Rogers would look like today in hopes of turning up leads.

"From the police point of view, we have listened to everything they have said. It is a plausible theory. There is quite a bit of substantiation in regards to the information they have come up with," Detective Jim Binford said.

The bodies of Rogers' parents were discovered in the couple's home at 1815 Driscoll after a relative grew worried when they did not answer the phone or the door.

Two Houston police officers searched the one-and-a-half story house and found no trace of the couple until one, C.M. Bullock, decided to open the refrigerator.

What he found "just looked like a bunch of meat. I didn't immediately know what it was," Bullock said. "Just as I was closing the door, I saw the heads through the clear glass of the vegetable bin."

Detectives learned that the couple had a reclusive son who lived in an upstairs room. In the room, they found several sophisticated shortwave radios. An immediate search was launched for Rogers, but no trace of him was ever found.

Police later learned that Rogers was a Navy veteran of World War II, had earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Houston and held a pilot's license. He worked as a seismologist for Shell Oil Co., but left without giving a reason — to work for the CIA, Craig says.

He contends Rogers worked as a cryptographer for naval intelligence during the war, and "had all the right credentials to be recruited by the CIA."

"At that time, it was common for agents to

See ROGERS on Page 35A.

Dallas Times Herald

This is a police artist's rendition of what Charles Rogers, a suspect in the bizarre 1965 slaying of his parents, would look like today.

Rogers

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work for oil companies because it was a perfect cover," he said. "He was probably the best communications expert the CIA ever had.

"In the attic above his room, he had an antenna that was overlooked by police. He was using the radio to communicate with other agents," Craig said.

"What police didn't find out was that after he graduated from U of H, he went to the University of Texas and earned another degree," he said. "He was taking classes in nuclear physics and in advanced electrical engineering."

Craig said Rogers, who was fluent in Spanish, now lives in Guatemala. "He was very active in the anti-Castro movement and had worked on the ground there (in Cuba)."

He also said he had talked to people who flew with Rogers when he worked for Air America, the CIA's private airline. "He was known as a great pilot," he said.

Craig said friends and acquaintances identified Rogers as one of three men arrested in Dealy Plaza just minutes after Kennedy was killed on Nov. 22, 1963.

A photograph, known to Kennedy conspiracy theorists as the "tramp" picture, shows three men being led off by Dallas police officers. Craig said there was no record of the arrests and that the men were released without being questioned.

Craig said he is convinced that Rogers had some role in the death of the president.

"After the assassination, he disappeared for five months. When he resurfaced, his mother began to get suspicious about him," he said.

"He was always getting telephone calls at home and she would take messages for him. She began to become concerned about him and confided her fears to several people," he said.

Craig said he believes Rogers killed his parents because his mother confronted him about his work.

"He killed her, then he killed his father. We believe that he was going to get rid of the bodies, but was interrupted before he had a chance to do it," he said.

A homicide detectives assigned to the original case said the idea that Rogers was a secret agent sounded far-fetched.

"He was a strange guy, but I don't believe that," said retired HPD Detective C.E. Smith.